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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 231055

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TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG, US

SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES STORY

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF REPORT BY HENRY TANNER DATELINED CAIRO, SEPTEMBER 26 AND CARRIED IN NEW YORK TIMES SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27:

2. BEGIN TEXT:

HEADLINE: SOME IN CAIRO NOW FEEL KISSINGER MISLED THEM

SOME LEADING EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS HAVE BEGUN TO EXPRESS GREAT BITTERNESS OVER THE ATTITUDES TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL SINCE THE CONCLUSION THREE WEEKS AGO OF THE SINAI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT.

SOME OF THESE MEN ARE SAID TO FEEL THAT SECRETARY OF STATE
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PAGE 02 STATE 231055

KISSINGER MISLED THE EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATORS BY NOT TELLING

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THEM HE HAD PROMISED THAT WASHINGTON WOULD SYMPATHETICALLY CONSIDER SUPPLYING THE ISRAELIS WITH PERSHING MISSILES.

THE PERSHINGS, WITH THEIR RANGE OF ABOUT 450 MILES, WOULD PUT THE ASWAN DAM AS WELL AS CAIRO WITHIN FIRING DISTANCE

OF THE ISRAELIS. THEY HAVE BECOME A PSYCHOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL SYMBOL HERE.

ASSURANCES UNCONVINCING

EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS KNEW THAT LARGE QUANTITIES OF POWERFUL AND ADVANCED AMERICAN WEAPONS WOULD (GARBLE)CONCLUSION OF THE AGREEMENT. BUT THE PERSHINGS, IN THE VIEW OF THESE OFFICIALS, CONSTITUTE A DRAMATIC MOVE FOR QUALITY OF AMERICAN WEAPONS FOR ISRAEL. AMERICAN ASSURANCES THAT THEY WILL NOT BE EQUIPPED WITH NUCLEAR WARHEADS ARE UNCONVINCING HERE. (SENTENCE 2 ABOVE GIVEN AS PRINTED)

ARAB CRITICS OF PRESIDENT ANWAR EL-SADAT OF EGYPT TAKE IT AS A CONFIRMATION OF THEIR BELIEF THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NEVER BE "EVENHANDED" IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THAT MR. SADAT'S MOVE TO ASSOCIATE HIMSELF WITH WASHINGTON WAS WRONG.

SAYED MAREI, THE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND ONE OF MR. SADAT'S CLOSEST INTIMATES, SUGGESTED IN A CONVERSATION THE OTHER DAY THAT THE ONLY POSSIBLE WAY THE UNITED STATES COULD CORRECT THE DAMAGE DONE TO EGYPTIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS WOULD BE TO PROVIDE EGYPT WITH SIMILARLY POWERFUL AMERICAN WEAPONS AS WELL AS WITH MUCH GREATER AND MORE VISIBLE FINANCIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE THAN IS NOW CONTEMPLATED.

EVEN THE PENTAGON'S STATEMENT THAT DELIVERIES OF PERSHINGS COULD NOT BEGIN BEFORE THE EARLY NINETEEN-EIGHTIES STRUCK EGYPTIANS AS OMINOUS, RATHER THAN REASSURING. IT WAS SEEN AS A SIGN THAT THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL BOTH REMAINED CONVINCED THAT A STATE OF WAR WOULD STILL EXIST 10 YEARS FROM NOW.
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"THIS MAKES A MOCKERY OF KISSINGER'S STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH," AN EGYPTIAN SAID.

MORE SPENDING ON ARMS

THE ISSUE GOES TO THE HEART OF THE CONSIDERATIONS THAT HAVE LED EGYPT TO ACCEPT MR. KISSINGER'S STEP-BY-STEP

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DIPLOMACY.

IT IS TAKEN FOR GRANTED HERE THAT EGYPT, THE MOST POWERFUL ARAB NATION, MUST ALWAYS MATCH ISRAEL'S ARMAMENTS. IF ISRAEL IS SLATED TO RECEIVE PERSHING MISSILES, THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT WILL TRY TO GET COMPARABLE WEAPONS SOMEWHERE.
AS A RESULT, IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR PRESIDENT SADAT TO REDUCE MILITARY EXPENDITURES AND SHIFT RESOURCES TO CIVILIAN RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION; EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS SAY.

THEY ADD THAT IT WAS PRECISELY THE HOPE OF BEING ABLE TO TURN TO CIVILIAN TASKS THAT LED PRESIDENT SADAT TO ACCEPT AMERICAN MEDIATION AND AMERICAN OFFERS OF ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE.

THE FEELING HERE IS THAT THE BURDEN ON THE UNITED STATES TO PROVE ITS FRIENDSHIP FOR EGYPT IS GREATER THAN EVER.

MR. MAREI, IN A BITTER MOOD, RECALLED THE SUMMER OF 1956 WHEN SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN FOSTER DULLES WITHDREW HIS OFFER OF AMERICAN HELP IN BUILDING THE ASWAN DAM, AND OPENED THE WAY FOR THE RUSSIANS TO DO SO, STARTING A 15-YEAR PERIOD OF EGYPTIAN DEPENDENCE ON MOSCOW.

ISRAELI ATTITUDES SINCE CONCLUSION OF THE AGREEMENT HAVE ALSO CAUSED BITTERNESS HERE.

FOREIGN MINISTER ISMAIL FAHMY, ONE OF THE CHIEF NEGOTIATORS, SAID IN A CONVERSATION THAT EGYPT HAD REGARDED THE AGREEMENT AS A TEST OF AMERICAN AND ISRAELI INTENTIONS AND THAT THE RESULT HAD BEEN NEGATIVE ON BOTH COUNTS.
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THE STATIONING OF AMERICAN TECHNICIANS IN SINAI, HE SAID, COULD HAVE BECOME THE BEGINNING OF A NEW APPROACH BY ISRAEL AND THE ARABS TO THE ISSUE OF THEIR MUTUAL SECURITY BECAUSE IT GAVE THEM AN ALTERNATIVE TO AN ARMS RACE.

INSTEAD, HE CHARGED, ISRAEL HAS GONE AHEAD WITH HER PAST POLICIES AS IF NOTHING HAD CHANGED. HER SHOPPING LIST, INCLUDING THE REQUEST FOR PERSHINGS, SHOWED SHE STILL HAD AN INSATIABLE APPETITE FOR ARMS, HE SAID.

SECOND, HE CHARGED, THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT CHOSE THE DAYS AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE AGREEMENT TO ANNOUNCE THAT IT WOULD BUILD A NEW KIBBUTZ ON EGYPTIAN TERRITORY IN SINAI JUST SOUTH OF GAZA.

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THIS, HE ADDED, SHOWED THAT ISRAEL HAD NO INTENTION OF
RELINQUISHING THE TERRITORY SHE OCCUPIED IN 1967 EVEN
THOUGH BOTH SIDES ARE PLEDGED TO REGARD THE NEW AGREEMENT
AS A STEP TOWARD A FULL SETTLEMENT. END TEXT. KISSINGER

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